

# ANNEXURE “O”

NATIONAL TREASURY CIRCULAR NO. 86



## Municipal Budget Circular for the 2017/18 MTREF

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## Introduction

This budget circular is a follow-up to the one issued in December 2016. It guides municipalities with their preparation of the 2017/18 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) and, as with previous annual budget circulars it should be read within that context. Among the objectives of this circular, is to support municipalities with giving effect to National Treasury's Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations (MBRR) within the current economic climate. The key focus of this circular is the implementation of municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (*mSCOA*) and the grant allocations as per the 2017 Budget Review.

### 1. The South African economy and inflation targets

The 2017 Budget Review emphasised that, while the global economic growth outlook has improved, it is clouded by the prevailing policy uncertainty due to the increasing pressure within the world trading system. These factors may jeopardise South Africa's prudent macroeconomic and fiscal policies, which include inflation targeting and a flexible exchange rate, the local economy's ability to adjust to global volatility and the stable investment platform.

GDP growth rate is forecasted to increase by 1.3 per cent in 2017 and to improve moderately over the medium term with to 2 per cent and 2.2 per cent in 2018 and 2019 respectively. This forecast is supported by marginally higher global growth, stabilising commodity prices, greater reliability of the electricity network, more favourable weather conditions, recovering business and consumer confidence, and improved labour relations. The positive trajectory marks a shift from several years of declining growth however; this is still not high enough to markedly reduce unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The unemployment rate was 26.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2016. In aggregate mining and manufacturing employment declined by 80 306 jobs in 2016 while the services sector created 119 189 jobs during the same period. The economy continues to create opportunities for semi-skilled and skilled workers, and to shed unskilled jobs, reinforcing poverty and inequality and widening the wage gap.

These economic challenges will continue to pressurise municipal revenue generation and collection levels hence a conservative approach is advised for projecting revenue. Municipalities will have to improve their efforts to limit non-priority spending and to implement stringent cost-containment measures.

The following macro-economic forecasts must be considered when preparing the 2017/18 MTREF municipal budgets.

**Table 1: Macroeconomic performance and projections, 2015 - 2019**

Fiscal year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	Estimate		Forecast	
Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)	6.4%	6.4%	5.7%	5.6%
Real GDP growth	0.5%	1.3%	2.0%	2.2%

Source: 2017 Budget Review.

Note: the fiscal year referred to is the national fiscal year (April to March) which is more closely aligned to the municipal fiscal year (July to June) than the calendar year inflation.



## 2. Key focus areas for the 2017/18 budget process

### 2.1 Local government conditional grants and additional allocations

The 2017 Budget Review provides for R366.3 billion to be transferred directly to local government and a further R23 billion allocated to indirect grants for the 2017 MTREF. Direct transfers to local government over the medium term account for 9.1 per cent of national government's non-interest expenditure. When adding indirect transfers, the total spending for local government increases to 9.7 per cent of national non-interest expenditure.

Direct transfers to local government grow at an average rate of 8 per cent per annum over the 2017 MTEF. This strong growth in transfers to local government recognises the importance of local government functions and associated rising costs of municipal service delivery. Similarly, minor reductions are made to the larger conditional grants so that funds are prioritised in favour of other government priorities. Grant administrators and municipalities are encouraged to maximise the value derived from spending so that service delivery is not compromised.

Conditional grant funding targets delivery of national government's service delivery priorities. It is imperative that municipalities understand and comply with the conditions stipulated in the Division of Revenue Act (DoRA) in order to access this funding. The equitable share and the sharing of the general fuel levy constitute additional unconditional funding, of which the equitable share is designed to fund the provision of free basic services to disadvantaged communities.

Municipalities are reminded that all allocations included in their budgets must correspond to the allocations listed in the Division of Revenue Bill. All the budget documentation can be accessed from the National Treasury website by clicking on the link below:  
<http://ntintranet/documents/national%20budget/2017/>

### Changes to local government allocations

- The *local government equitable share* will grow by R3.3 billion over the MTEF period to assist municipalities with the rising costs of providing free basic services. An additional R1 billion will be added in 2018/19 and R2.3 billion in 2019/20 which further grows the 2016 Division of Revenue provision of R1.5 billion in 2017/18 and R3 billion in 2018/19. The formula, which is informed by the 2011 Census data, will be updated over the MTEF with data from the 2016 Community Survey. This data will be phased in over the MTEF period to ensure a smooth transition of the impact on the allocations to municipalities.
- Minor reductions are made to a mix of urban and rural grants, including, the *public transport network grant*, the *water services infrastructure grant*, the *municipal infrastructure grant* and the *urban settlements development grant* so that resources are available to fund other government priorities. In spite of the decreased allocations each of these grants will grow by at least 5 per cent annually over the 2017 MTEF period.
- Funds reprioritised from:
  - the *expanded public works programme integrated grant* to municipalities to fund the expanded mandate of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (as the commission will be providing its services to additional sectors);
  - the indirect *integrated national electrification programme (Eskom) grant*, mainly to fund the management of nuclear waste; and

- the indirect *regional bulk infrastructure grant* of which small amounts will be utilised to augment funding for water catchment management agencies.
- There is intent to introduce a new funding model for district municipalities upon completion of the Department of Cooperative Governance's review of their functional role. In 2017/18, adjustments are made to the *RSC/ JSB levies replacement grant* to redistribute funds to the 13 district municipalities currently receiving less than R40 million per year from this grant. The growth rates of the 10 district municipalities with the largest allocations are reduced to fund the increases to the other districts. They will receive two-thirds of their original growth rate in 2017/18 and one-third of their original growth rate in 2018/19.

In the outer year of the MTEF period, the grant increases by 8.8 per cent a year for district municipalities that are authorised to undertake water and sanitation services and 2.9 per cent for district municipalities that are not such authorities. The different rates recognise the various service delivery responsibilities of these district municipalities and the fact that the allocations to unauthorised municipalities have an average growth rate below inflation.

The Department of Cooperative Governance, which administers the *municipal infrastructure grant*, continues to implement measures to strengthen the management and implementation of the grant. Changes to be introduced in 2017/18 include the circulation of:

- a guideline on how to plan, assess and implement refurbishment projects funded by the grant. The rules of the grant were changed in 2015/16 to allow this funding to be utilised for refurbishment however there have not been many projects of this nature since then. The new guideline will clarify the requirements for accessing this refurbishment funding.
- a revised guideline on the use of project management unit funds. Municipalities are allowed to use up to 5 per cent of their allocations from this grant for a project management unit. Grant conditions that require municipalities to submit business plans for their project management units will also allow the Department of Cooperative Governance to ensure that municipalities adhere to the guideline's best practices.

## 2.2 Municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (mSCOA)<sup>1</sup>

The *mSCOA* Regulations apply to all municipalities and municipal entities with effect from 1 July 2017.

Technically, for a municipality to be regarded as *mSCOA* compliant on 1 July 2017 it must be able to transact across all the *mSCOA* segments and its core system and all sub-systems (including that of its municipal entities) must seamlessly integrate. Among the lessons learnt from the pilot municipalities, stems the recommendation that a municipality's point of departure for achieving system integration is that it prioritises the maximum integration potential of its core system so that it integrates with the Debtors main sub-system (including cash management and receipting), Payroll and the Assets Management sub-system modules. Furthermore, all municipalities must accommodate seamless integration of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and Budget facilities into the core financial system as these documents create a point of departure for the transactional environment come 1 July 2017.

<sup>1</sup> The Minister of Finance promulgated the Municipal Regulations on a Standard Chart of Accounts in government gazette Notice No. 37577 on 22 April 2014.



This means that the compilation of the 2017/18 Medium-Term Budget and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) must be compliant with the *m*SCOA classification framework.

In summary, *m*SCOA compliance in respect of the tabled 2017/18 MTREF and IDP submission means that the data string uploaded to the LG Database portal must meet the following requirements:

- No mapping;
- Correct use of all segments;
- Seamless integration of core system with sub-systems (municipalities must ensure the integration of the Debtors, Payroll and Asset sub-systems); and
- Integrated budgeting facility directly linked to the IDP and SDBIP facilities on the system.

It is imperative that municipalities are familiar with the addendum to MFMA Circular No. 80 which describes what constitutes *m*SCOA compliance by 1 July 2017. National Treasury has a dedicated website to support municipalities with their *m*SCOA readiness efforts.

For more information on *m*SCOA and other benefits of the reform, visit:  
<http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/RegulationsandGazettes/MunicipalRegulationsOnAStandardChartOfAccountsFinal/Pages/default.aspx>

### 2.3 *m*SCOA training for municipal officials

Municipalities are advised not to approach the market to procure services for *m*SCOA training as National Treasury has partnered with the Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGFARO, previously IMFO) to undertake *m*SCOA training.

## 3. The revenue budget

National Treasury encourages municipalities to maintain tariff increases at levels that reflect an appropriate balance between the affordability to poorer households and other customers while ensuring the financial sustainability of the municipality. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation has however breached the upper limit of the 3 to 6 per cent target band; therefore municipalities are now required to ***justify all increases in excess of the 6.4 per cent*** projected inflation target in their budget narratives, and pay careful attention to the differential incidence of tariff increases across all consumer groups.

Where revenue collection is not well planned or managed, or where tariffs are not properly set, serious financial problems can arise. Eskom's recent move to cut off power supply to municipalities that have not paid electricity bills is an indication of what can happen when municipalities fail to manage this risk.

### 3.1 Eskom bulk tariff increases

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), issued a media statement saying that Eskom's allowed revenue for 2017/18 would result in a 2.2 per cent increase in the approved bulk tariffs for Eskom that year. NERSA's consultation paper on tariff benchmarking indicates that this will result in a 0.31 per cent increase in bulk tariffs to municipalities (the difference is due to the different financial years of Eskom and municipalities).

This is significantly lower than the 8 per cent tariff increase provided for in the current Multi-Year Price Determination as a result of higher increases approved in preceding years (12.7

per cent for 2015/16 and 9.4 per cent for 2016/17). The statement also says that, *"Nothing prevents Eskom from considering any possible cash flow risks and the implications thereof on its financial sustainability and make an application to NERSA for relief in this regard should it consider it necessary."* The complete media statement can be accessed at [www.nersa.org.za](http://www.nersa.org.za).

Section 42 of the MFMA requires that bulk price increases charged to municipalities by an organ of state must be tabled by 15 March if they are to be effected as from 1 July of the same year, unless the Minister of Finance grants an extension. The Minister of Finance, at the request of the Minister of Public Enterprises, has granted an extension until 5 April 2017 for the tabling of Eskom's 2017/18 bulk prices for municipalities. Municipalities must ensure that their budgets are informed by Eskom's bulk tariff to be tabled on that date. In the meantime municipalities are advised to use the NERSA's guided 0.31 per cent bulk tariff increase when compiling their budgets. This means that any changes to the final bulk tariff increase for 2017/18 to be tabled by Eskom on the 5 April 2017 will have to be factored in at that time.

Municipalities must note that the free basic services subsidy provided for in the local government equitable share were informed by the 8 per cent bulk tariff increase previously approved for the current Multi-Year Price Determination period. The equitable share allocations were tabled on 22 February 2017 in the Division of Revenue Bill, 2017. If a lower electricity bulk tariff is tabled for 2017/18 this will be offset in the calculation of the free basic services subsidy for equitable share allocations for 2018/19. This means that municipalities will have to budget to retain any surplus funds from the higher free basic services subsidy paid in 2017/18 in order to offset the cost of providing free basic electricity in 2018/19.

#### **4. Funding choices and management issues**

Municipalities should carefully consider the costs associated with service delivery while keeping in mind affordability and inflation when setting revenue raising measures. Once again, approving tariffs that are less than the associated cost of providing the services will negatively impact the financial sustainability of municipalities.

##### **4.1 Employee related costs**

The South African Local Government Bargaining Council entered into a three-year *Salary and Wage Collective Agreement* for the period 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2018. The preparation of the 2017/18 MTREF constitutes implementation of the last year of the agreement which municipalities must implement as follows:

- 2017/18 Financial Year – average CPI (Feb 2016 – Jan 2017) + 1 per cent

*The previous years were:*

- 2015/16 Financial Year – 7 per cent
- 2016/17 Financial Year – average CPI (Feb 2015 – Jan 2016) + 1 per cent

##### **4.2 Remuneration of councilors**

Municipalities are advised to budget for the actual costs approved in accordance with the Government Gazette on the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act: Determination of Upper Limits of Salaries, Allowances and Benefits of different members of municipal councils published annually between December and January by the Department of Cooperative Governance.



## 5. Conditional Grant Transfers to Municipalities

### 5.1 Unspent Conditional Grants for 2016/17

In addition to the requirements outlined in the previous MFMA Circulars regarding unspent conditional grants, municipalities must know that the National Treasury uses the pre-audited Annual Financial Statements (AFS) to determine the unspent conditional grants. The decision is made based on the pre-audited AFS. Therefore, there will not be a review of the unspent conditional grants once the audited AFS are available. It is therefore imperative that municipalities ensure that there is completeness in reported figures on the pre-audited AFS.

Following the determination of unspent conditional grants to be surrendered to the National Revenue Fund, where municipalities fail to repay the unspent allocations and will not be able to withstand the impact of the offsetting of unspent allocations from their equitable share in one instalment, municipalities have an opportunity in terms of section 22 (5)(b) (ii) and (iii) to propose an alternative means acceptable to National Treasury by which the unspent allocations will be paid into the National Revenue Fund or to propose an alternative payment schedule (repayment arrangement).

Municipalities who intend to exercise the above option are encouraged to inform the National Treasury within 14 days upon receipt of the letter informing them of the unspent conditional grants to be repaid into the National Revenue Fund. Requests for repayment arrangements following the lapse of the 14 days will not be considered. The repayment arrangement is limited to a maximum of three installments, whereby municipalities can repay unspent allocations into the National Revenue Fund.

## 6. The Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations

National Treasury has released Version 6.1 of Schedule A1 (the Excel Formats) which is aligned to version 6.1 of the mSCOA classification framework which must be used when compiling the 2017/18 MTREF budget. This version incorporates major changes (see Annexure A). Therefore **ALL** municipalities **MUST** use this version for the preparation of their 2017/18 MTREF budget.

Download Version 6.1 of Schedule A1 by clicking [HERE](#)

The Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, formats and associated guides are available on National Treasury's website at:

<http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/RegulationsandGazettes/Pages/default.aspx>

If municipalities require advice with the compilation of their respective budgets, specifically the budget documents or Schedule A1, they should direct their enquiries to their respective provincial treasuries or to the following National Treasury official:

	Responsible NT officials	Tel. No.	Email
Eastern Cape	Templeton Phogole	012-315 5044	<a href="mailto:Templeton.Phogole@treasury.gov.za">Templeton.Phogole@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Matjati Mashoeshoe	012-315 6567	<a href="mailto:Matjati.Mashoeshoe@treasury.gov.za">Matjati.Mashoeshoe@treasury.gov.za</a>
Free State	Vincent Malepa	012-315 5539	<a href="mailto:Vincent.Malepa@treasury.gov.za">Vincent.Malepa@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Cethekile Moshane	012-315 5079	<a href="mailto:Cethekile.moshane@treasury.gov.za">Cethekile.moshane@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Katlego Mabiletsa	012-395 6742	<a href="mailto:Katlego.Mabiletsa@treasury.gov.za">Katlego.Mabiletsa@treasury.gov.za</a>
Gauteng	Kgomotso Baloyi	012-315 5866	<a href="mailto:Kgomotso.Baloyi@treasury.gov.za">Kgomotso.Baloyi@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Nomxolisi Mawulana	012-315 5460	<a href="mailto:Nomxolisi.Mawulana@treasury.gov.za">Nomxolisi.Mawulana@treasury.gov.za</a>



KwaZulu-Natal	Bernard Mokgabodi	012-315 5936	<a href="mailto:Bernard.Mokgabodi@treasury.gov.za">Bernard.Mokgabodi@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Johan Botha	012-315 5171	<a href="mailto:Johan.Botha@treasury.gov.za">Johan.Botha@treasury.gov.za</a>
Limpopo	Una Rautenbach	012-315 5700	<a href="mailto:Una.Rautenbach@treasury.gov.za">Una.Rautenbach@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Sifiso Mabaso	012-315 5952	<a href="mailto:Sifiso.Mabaso@treasury.gov.za">Sifiso.Mabaso@treasury.gov.za</a>
Mpumalanga	Jordan Maja	012-315 5663	<a href="mailto:Jordan.Maja@treasury.gov.za">Jordan.Maja@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Anthony Moseki	012-315 5174	<a href="mailto:Anthony.Moseki@treasury.gov.za">Anthony.Moseki@treasury.gov.za</a>
Northern Cape	Willem Voigt	012-315 5830	<a href="mailto:Willem.Voigt@treasury.gov.za">Willem.Voigt@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Mandla Gilimani	012-315 5807	<a href="mailto:Mandla.Gilimani@treasury.gov.za">Mandla.Gilimani@treasury.gov.za</a>
North West	Sadesh Ramjathan	012-315 5101	<a href="mailto:Sadesh.Ramjathan@treasury.gov.za">Sadesh.Ramjathan@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Makgabo Mabotja	012-315 5156	<a href="mailto:Makgabo.Mabotja@treasury.gov.za">Makgabo.Mabotja@treasury.gov.za</a>
Western Cape	Templeton Phogole	012-315 5044	<a href="mailto:Templeton.Phogole@treasury.gov.za">Templeton.Phogole@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Vuyo Mbunge	012-315 5044	<a href="mailto:Vuyo.Mbunge@treasury.gov.za">Vuyo.Mbunge@treasury.gov.za</a>
	Kevin Bell	012-315 5725	<a href="mailto:Kevin.Bell@treasury.gov.za">Kevin.Bell@treasury.gov.za</a>
Technical issues with Excel formats	Elsabe Rossouw	012-315 5534	<a href="mailto:ldataqueries@treasury.gov.za">ldataqueries@treasury.gov.za</a>

National Treasury, together with the provincial treasuries, will undertake a compliance check and, where municipalities have not provided complete budget information, the municipal budgets will be returned to the mayors and municipal managers of the affected municipalities for the necessary corrections. Municipal managers are reminded that the annual budget must be accompanied by a quality certificate and council resolution in accordance with the format specified in item 31 of Schedule A of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations. In addition to the above compliance check, the mSCOA data strings will be assessed to determine whether the municipalities are compliant.

The National Treasury herewith emphasises that where municipalities have not adhered to the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, ***they will be required to go back to the municipal council and table a complete budget document aligned to the requirement of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations. In addition, where municipalities have tabled an unfunded budget, they will be required to correct the budget to ensure that a funded budget is adopted and implemented.***

Municipalities with municipal entities are once again reminded to prepare consolidated budgets and in-year monitoring reports for both the parent municipality and its entity or entities. The following must be compiled:

- An annual budget, adjustments budget and monthly financial reports for the parent municipality in the relevant formats;
- An annual budget, adjustments budget and monthly financial reports for the entity in the relevant formats; and
- A consolidated annual budget, adjustments budget and monthly financial reports for the parent municipality and all its municipal entities in the relevant formats.

The A Schedule that the municipality submits to National Treasury must be a consolidated budget for the municipality (plus entities) and the budget of the parent municipality. D schedules must be submitted for each entity.

## 7. Budget process and submissions for the 2017/18 MTREF

### 7.1 Budgeting for the audited years on the A schedule (mSCOA)

According to international best practices, it is appropriate to reclassify historical information in line with the changes that occur in the Standard Chart of Accounts. However considering our

own circumstances and the technical capability of smaller municipalities, it is proposed that municipalities disclose audited and the current years' (2016/17) information using version 2.8 of the A schedule. In relation to the 2017/18 MTREF municipalities must use version 6.1 of the A schedule. By implication two separate schedules must be submitted.

The amalgamated municipalities must not complete the audited years because they are new institutions that existed after the Local Government elections in August 2016, therefore they do not have the audited figures. As a result of that, there will not be verification of audited years for the pre-amalgamation municipalities. They are required to submit the current year (2016/17) and the 2017/18 MTREF budgets.

## 7.2 Submitting budget documentation and schedules for 2017/18 MTREF

To facilitate oversight of compliance with the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, accounting officers are reminded that:

- Section 22(b)(i) of the MFMA requires that, **immediately** after an annual budget is tabled in a municipal council, it must be submitted to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury in both printed and electronic formats. If the annual budget is tabled to council on 31 March 2017, the final date of submission of the electronic budget documents and corresponding electronic returns is **Monday, 03 April 2017**. This includes the submission of the *mSCOA* data string. The deadline for submission of hard copies including council resolution is **Friday, 7 April 2017**.
- Section 24(3) of the MFMA, read together with regulation 20(1), requires that the approved annual budget must be submitted to both National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury **within ten working days** after the council has approved the annual budget. If the council only approves the annual budget on 30 June 2017, the final date for such a submission is **Friday, 14 July 2017**, otherwise an earlier date applies.

The municipal manager must submit:

- the budget documentation as set out in Schedule A (version 6.1) of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, including the main Tables (A1 - A10) and ALL the supporting tables (SA1 – SA38) in both printed and electronic formats;
- the draft service delivery and budget implementation plan in both printed and electronic format;
- the draft service delivery standards;
- the draft integrated development plan;
- the council resolution;
- signed Quality Certificate as prescribed in the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations;
- schedules D, E and F specific for the entities; and
- the budget locking certificate.

Municipalities are required to send electronic versions of documents and the A1 schedule to [lqdocuments@treasury.gov.za](mailto:lqdocuments@treasury.gov.za).

If the budget documents are too large to be sent via email (exceeds 4MB) please submit to [lqbigfiles@gmail.com](mailto:lqbigfiles@gmail.com). Any problems experienced in this regard can be addressed with Elsabe Rossouw at [Elsabe.Rossouw@treasury.gov.za](mailto:Elsabe.Rossouw@treasury.gov.za).

Municipalities are required to send printed submissions of their budget documents and council resolution to:



**For couriered documents**

Ms Linda Kruger  
National Treasury  
40 Church Square  
Pretoria, 0002

**For posted documents**

Ms Linda Kruger  
National Treasury  
Private Bag X115  
Pretoria, 0001

In addition to the above mentioned budget documentation, metropolitan municipalities must submit the Built Environment Performance Plan (BEPP) tabled in council on 31 March 2017 to [Yasmin.coovadia@treasury.gov.za](mailto:Yasmin.coovadia@treasury.gov.za). If the BEPP documents are too large to be sent via email (exceeds 4MB) please submit to [yasmin.coovadia@gmail.com](mailto:yasmin.coovadia@gmail.com) or send to Yasmin Coovadia via Dropbox; any problems experienced in this regard can be addressed with [Yasmin.Coovadia@treasury.gov.za](mailto:Yasmin.Coovadia@treasury.gov.za). Hard copies of the BEPP may be sent to Yasmin Coovadia, National Treasury, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor 40 Church Square, Pretoria, 0002 or Private Bag X115, Pretoria, 0001.

**7.3 Budget reform returns to the Local Government Database for publication**

Municipalities are required to continue to use the Budget Reform Returns to upload budget and monthly expenditure to the National Treasury Local Government Database for publication purposes. All returns are to be sent to [lgdatabase@treasury.gov.za](mailto:lgdatabase@treasury.gov.za). Municipalities must submit returns for both the tabled budget and the final adopted budget as this will assist the National and provincial treasuries with the annual benchmark process.

In addition, municipalities must submit the mSCOA compliant data strings to the LG Upload Portal. National Treasury will continue with parallel reporting from municipalities until it is satisfied that all municipalities are mSCOA compliant and reporting adequately to support all publications.

The current electronic returns may be downloaded from National Treasury's website at the following link: [http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Return\\_Forms/Pages/default.aspx](http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Return_Forms/Pages/default.aspx).

**7.4 Publication of budgets on municipal websites**

In terms of section 75 of the MFMA, all municipalities are required to publish their tabled budgets, adopted budgets, annual reports (containing audited annual financial statements) and other relevant information on the municipality's website. This will aid in promoting public accountability and good governance.

All relevant documents mentioned in this circular are available on the National Treasury website, <http://mfma.treasury.gov.za/Pages/Default.aspx>. Municipalities are encouraged to visit it regularly as documents are regularly added / updated on the website.

**7.5 The use of private emails for business purposes**

There are municipalities that use private email addresses for business purposes (e.g. Gmail). For the purpose of the implementation of mSCOA the Local Government Database requires municipalities to update their contact details and provide official email addresses instead of private. Therefore municipalities must follow the process of ensuring that their Information and Communication Technology infrastructure can accommodate official email addresses. Further requirements will be issued in this regard.

## Contact



**national treasury**

Department  
National Treasury  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Post** Private Bag X115, Pretoria 0001  
**Phone** 012 315 5009  
**Fax** 012 395 6553  
**Website** <http://www.treasury.gov.za/default.aspx>

**JH Hattingh**  
**Chief Director: Local Government Budget Analysis**  
**08 March 2017**



## Annexure A – Changes to Schedule A1 – the ‘Excel formats’

As noted above, National Treasury has released Version 6.1 of Schedule A1 (the Excel Formats). It incorporates the following changes:

No.	Sheet	Amendment	Reason
1	A2 and A2A	Changed reference to "Standard Classification" to functional classification and included detailed functional classification.	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
2	A4, SA2 and SA25	Deleted "Property rates – penalties and collection charges". Changed description for fines to "Fines, penalties and forfeits".	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
4	A5	Changed reference to "Standard Classification" to functional classification	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
5	A7 and SA30	Changed description for "property rates, penalties and collection charges" to property rates	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
6	A9	Changed breakdown of asset categories to align to CDIMS. Added a section on Upgrading of Existing Infrastructure.	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
8	SA3	Changed descriptions for "Call deposits < 90 days" and "Other current investments > 90 days" to exclude "< > 90 days".	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
9	SA17	Changed description of "Long-Term Loans (annuity/reducing balance)" to Annuity and Bullet Loans.	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
11	SA34(a-d)	Changed breakdown of asset categories to align to CDIMS.	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
12	SA34e	Added a table on Upgrading of Existing Infrastructure.	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework
13	SA38	Added a table on operating expenditure projects	Align to version 6.1 of mSCOA classification framework